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SB 753 RELATING TO CONSOLIDATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS

Statement for Senate Committee on
Government Operations and County Relations
Public Hearing, 28 February 1983

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SB 753 proposes to add a new chapter to Hawaii Revised Statutes providing a mechanism for consolidating the applications for the permits and approvals that may be necessary to carry out a project. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

SB 753 validly recognizes the problems associated with the number of permits and approvals that may be necessary from various agencies, federal, state, and county, before a project can be carried out. The bill would provide that:

- 1) The applicant for approval of a project may apply to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), requesting use of a consolidated application process.
- 2) DLNR will determine what permits and approvals will be necessary and notify the concerned agencies.
- 3) The participation of the agencies, although encouraged, will be voluntary.
- 4) All permits and approvals required by law will still be necessary, whether provided through the consolidation process or not.

We suggest that the Department of Planning and Economic Development (DPED), which issues no permits of its own but has broad cognizance of permit requirements would serve better as the consolidating agency than the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The proposed process would be useful even if DLNR or DPED did no more than identify the permits and approvals necessary and the agencies involved. Fuller use of the consolidated process could result in substantial further expediting of the permit processes, including the combination of required public hearings. In itself, the bill would not alter the schedules prescribed by law or by agency regulations for the steps in obtaining permits. However, the initial use of the consolidation process will probably result in recognition of alterations of the schedules that would improve the effectiveness of the process.

We call attention to the Hawaii Permit Application and Support System (HPASS) developed by Charles Hill in the University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning. HPASS is a computerized system whose use would greatly facilitate the consolidation process.